

Commercial Advertiser

WALTER G. SMITH - EDITOR

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Wireless politics are even more difficult to get than wireless telegraphy.

When men like J. B. Atherton, Henry Waterhouse, J. P. Cooke and Mark Robinson are turned down as Republican delegates because they are not the sort of people whom H. M. Sewall can use to pull his chestnuts out of the fire, the less the machine says about a "desire for harmony" the better.

Mr. Bryan may assume that Kansas has no real prosperity but all the same more steel safes were sold there last year than in any other part of the Union. At this rate it won't be long before Bryan must change his tune and denounce Kansas as a nest of gold bugs and a lair of plutocrats.

In his "Address to Bimetallists" four years ago Mr. Bryan said that "before the year 1899 arrives, the evil effects of a gold standard will be even more evident than they are now." Well, 1900 is here and only the other day Mr. Bryan, who owns a Nebraska farm, sold his crop of oats for more than the land cost him.

The convention will be held in Honolulu, this point being the most convenient one to the majority of Island delegates. It is reported that the Hilolites will not come here unless their expenses are paid but this story comports so badly with the stalwart Republicanism of that city and of the big Island that we refuse to credit it.

The New York Democracy is ready to make an issue of the Boers but it doesn't want to have the thing cost money. The Sulzer-Tammany fund for the relief of Boer widows and orphans netted \$18. Perhaps, however, the Democracy argues that its sympathy is so valuable that it would be almost an insult to supplement it with anything so gross as cash.

Honolulu has long had a Chinese theater but a Japanese playhouse, with lanterns and cherry blossoms and Geisha girls, is a taking novelty. The new theater looks as if it had been lifted bodily from a Tokio corner and set down in this city. No Yankee innovation has been permitted to rob it of the oriental charm which attaches to all abodes of the Japanese Thespia on native soil.

One of the many strong features of Judge Estee's speech the other night was an appeal against great landholdings. Vast estates are a necessary incident of the sugar business in Hawaii but it will be possible, so far as the public lands are concerned, to do much in the way of carrying out Judge Estee's views. Nothing is truer than the fact that small homesteads for the people are among the best guarantees of civilized progress here as elsewhere.

We are glad to see that the Attorney General's Department is taking a sensible view of the blue laws and that, in Mr. Dole's opinion, no useful purpose can be subserved by closing soda water, mineral water, ice cream and cigar stores and eating houses on the first day of the week. As the Advertiser has repeatedly pointed out, the sale of such commodities in no way interferes with the Sunday peace and is a question closely allied to the comfort of our citizens. So far as disturbance goes the fizz of the soda water bottle is much to be preferred to the barbarous clangor of church bells and the grind and rattle of overloaded trams carrying people to Sunday picnics.

In expressing his regret at not being present at the banquet of Native Sons Governor Dole spoke of the friendly feeling that every progressive citizen of Hawaii ought to have for California. That State certainly deserves the good will of our people, for, from the very earliest commercial times, it has contributed much to Island prosperity. In all great undertakings for the good of Hawaii which required the aid of the United States Government California has been ours to command. During the long fight for annexation the people of the Golden State, despite the blandishments of the Sugar Trust, stood shoulder-to-shoulder with our own American party. These services Hawaii will not soon forget.

THE ANTI-HAOLE MOVEMENT.

The Independent party, in making its legislative nominations on all the islands but Oahu, has drawn the color line. The ticket as made up contains many English names but they belong to half-whites, the rest of the names being those of full-blooded natives. On Oahu it is possible that one or two white men may be nominated; but if so they will have to pledge themselves, if elected, to vote and work in accord with native sentiment. Undoubtedly such men can be found.

It is of course useless to argue with the Independent leaders against the merits of their policy; for when they are capable of believing that the bonds which unite this Territory to the Union may be severed by Act of Congress, they are beyond the reach of logic or of common sense. They must go their own way. Where that way will lead—into what perils and perplexities it will force the responsible, property-owning classes of Hawaii; what calamities it will finally bestow upon the native electors themselves, people familiar with the American method of eradicating political cancers may guess. These questions need no special comment.

In view of the numbers behind Wilcox in his political adventure it is a poor time for the Junta which controls the Republican organization—but not the party—to try and precipitate a factional war. To meet the Independents the influence of every Republican will be needed, yet we find the majority of white Republicans of Oahu ostracized by a coterie of politicians who would never have been heard of as leaders if the voting at the early primaries had been confined to party men. Is it possible their votes and other contributions are not wanted? If so how does the machine intend to overcome what seems to be the large numerical majority of the Wilcox party?

HARMONY WITH A HATCHET.

Yesterday a new men who mismanage the Republican party in Oahu were given a chance to practice the harmony they have been preaching for a short time back and the result is a solid machine delegation from the Fourth District to the Territorial Republican Convention. Their side got a majority at the late primaries by the narrowest of margins and they have been appealing almost daily to Good Government men for funds. It was supposed on these grounds that they would concede to the latter the right to name at least one-third of the delegation but this they refused to do unless permitted to take their own pick. Every name proposed by the Good Government men was voted down; and as a result the white majority in the Republican Fourth will have no representation in the body which is to frame a ticket for all Republicans to support. Intoxicated by the power given them chiefly by citizens who mean to support the Independent party they rode rough shod over their fellow Republicans and in doing so made an ostentatious display of the most offensive weapons of machine tyranny. There can be no harmony which these men are not ready to destroy for the advantage of their clique.

What the outcome of these courses may be time will tell. We attribute the folly and the blindness of it all to H. M. Sewall, who is desperately anxious, on his own behalf, to convince the Republican National Committee that he is the political boss of Hawaii and the undisputed leader of the Republican party here. The news of a solid machine delegation from Oahu would help him in the East; the news of a machine Territorial ticket would aid him still more; and if he can report the success of the ticket at the polls his chances to get the job he is chasing will be more than sixteen to one. We cannot but believe that Sewall has put the ticket in imminent peril, led to do so by a blind confidence in the pledges of two or three men to control the native vote. But as to that, time will tell. It may be that the convention, with a sudden access of wisdom will name a ticket which self-respecting party men can support; but it looks now as if the machine had made up its mind to accept the advice given by Mr. Sewall at a Sunday morning conference not long ago and ignore the white majority altogether.

TROPICAL COSTUME.

It must have been borne upon most of the diners at the Native Sons' banquet Monday night that the conventional evening dress, with its two thicknesses of coat and vest and its high standing collar, is a physical affliction in the tropics and that some more suitable apparel ought to be devised. The modern evening habitations of a gentleman were evolved in the North Temperate Zone and are well-suited to the climate. The cloth used is firm and warm; to protect the shirt front from bodily perspiration in heated rooms the climate permits the free use of flannel underwear; and in ordinary circumstances the collar is not likely to wilt. Here flannel underwear is a grievance, the shirt front softens, the collar goes to hopeless ruin and the broadcloth coat and vest, worn in rooms where the temperature is raised by many lights, becomes a manufactory of prickly heat.

They do these things better in warm countries further west. When summer comes in Southern Japan, Southern China, Singapore, Colombo and Amoy gentlemen appear at banquets, evening parties, weddings and the like in semi-dress suits of white duck. The bob-tailed white Tuxedo used is not all that sartorial grace might make it but it is comfortable and that ought to be the chief desideratum. The trousers are of duck and the shirt with a turn-down collar is made of a delicate shade of silk girdled at the waist with a silk band. The general effect is neat, gentlemanly and appropriate. A man so garbed looks well and what is more to the purpose feels well.

Is not Honolulu independent enough socially to invent a formal costume of its own, a modification in linen duck of the Hongkong fashion, suitable for high occasions? The ordinary black costume might be used in winter but why should you cling to it in summer until it clings to you?

WATER AND WEALTH.

The completion of the new irrigation canal at Spreckelsville means much to the Island of Maui. By it a large tract of land that had in the past been considered irreclaimable is put under cultivation and will soon be covered with growing cane. From a spot over twenty miles distant water is brought by this canal to vivify a hitherto barren region, a region rich in possibilities of wealth production, needing but the water to make it the equal of the most favored spots in the Islands.

The successful carrying through of this enterprise is an example of what may be done in dozens of other localities. Water there is in plenty in the so-called rainbelts on all the islands, and while in these regions millions of gallons of the precious liquid are wasted in the sea near by, there are tracts

of excellent alluvial soil capable of bringing forth splendid crops of sugar could the water but be brought to them. To do this needs an expenditure of time and energy and expense that too frequently frightens the owners and they allow their land to lie unfruitful while their more far seeing neighbors are coining money from tracts no better situated but which they have had the enterprise to bring under water.

The multiplication of such canals as the Lowrie Irrigation Ditch will mean an increase of the wealth of the Islands to an untold extent. With modern engineers there is almost nothing that cannot be done in the way of ditch construction. It costs money to be sure, but in these days the penny wise system of land cultivation does not pay. It takes money to make money in sugar cultivation and many managers will find that an emulation of the liberal methods adopted by Manager Lowrie of Spreckelsville will bring largely increased returns to their stockholders.

The Laysan Island shooting episode bids fairly to require a lengthy investigation before justice and the Japanese are satisfied. Whether it was a case of heroic defence on the part of five white men, one of whom fought for the life of his wife as well as his own, against forty infuriated laborers or an instance of master's brutality shooting down harmless and defenceless employees, begging for food, is a question for the courts, and the courts alone to decide.

Col. Watterson says that the country is in "a hopeless state of prosperity," but it won't be that way long in case the Colonel's candidate wins.

BACK FROM HAWAII

Supt. McCandless and W. E. Rowell Circed the Big Island

Superintendent McCandless and Assistant Superintendent Rowell of the Public Works Department returned on the Mauna Loa yesterday after a trip of two weeks around the Island of Hawaii. Mr. McCandless stated that the trip had been taken for the purpose of looking over the whole situation on Hawaii, to find out what was needed in the way of improvements.

"The trip was an eminently satisfactory one," said Mr. McCandless, "for by personal observation of conditions on Hawaii we are much better informed than we should have been had we trusted to reports. We landed at Mahukona and made the trip down the windward coast of the island to Hilo. Thence we went to the Volcano, and so by road through Kau and the Kona to Kailua. The roads in that part of the island are bad, but not so bad as has been reported. It has been frequently stated that they were impassable for bicyclists, or rather that wheelmen would have to push their wheels or carry them most of the way through Kona, but we found but few places where they were not rideable and we met several parties of wheelmen who were making the trip around the island."

"Owing to the lack of funds in the treasury we shall not be able to do much in the way of road improvement for some time, but our trip has at least given us an idea of what was needed and when the funds are available we shall know where they may best be applied."

Fisher Sells Land.

Yesterday at noon, Auctioneer Will E. Fisher disposed of a reversionary interest in the real and personal property, consisting of all the right, title and interest in and to the property of the Hospital da Misericordia of Angra de Heroismo, formerly the estate of Louis Perry, who died in 1892. The property comprised a piece of land at the west corner of Maunakea and Hotel streets, with an area of 5,550 feet. The upset price was set at \$6,000, and the proceeds of the sale were \$6,025. Part of the land is leased to a Chinese for the term of eighteen years from March 1, 1887, at a monthly rental of \$40. The balance is subject to a lease of twenty-five years to Y. Ann from June, 1888, at a rent of \$50 a month.

Warned Against Lee.

There is a certain Chinese in the city who has it in for another of his race whose name is Lee. In order to get even with Lee he has addressed a circular letter to all and sundry warning them against him. The letter was written in Chinese and was sent through the mail. As the man did not designate his enemy any further than to call him Lee and there are several hundred Lees among the Chinese of the city, the letter failed of its purpose.

Arlington Sale Today.

The safe and office fixtures, together with the Irish jaunting cart, valuable buggies and phaeton, and that magnificent horse which everybody in Honolulu are familiar with, also the kitchen utensils and the large range with boilers, and many valuable plants, ferns and nicknacks will be sacrificed at the Arlington sale today. Will E. Fisher has been giving bargains during this sale, and it is expected it will be completed today.

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